Privatisation of Water

†1445. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies selling bottled water and details of profit being earned by Government from the same;

(b) whether Government would promote privatisation of water;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has issued licenses to use BIS standard mark to 1122 manufacturing units out of which 1115 units are for Packaged drinking water and 7 units are for Natural Mineral water upto 31st March, 2004. The BIS charges marking fee from licenses to whom licenses are granted for using BIS Standard Mark to recover operational expenses.

(b) to (d) National Water Policy-2002 envisages that Private Sector Participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible which may help in introducing innovatic ideas, generating financial resources and introducing corporate management and improving service efficiency and accountability to users.

Integrated National Water Policy

1446. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Water Policy focusses more on the development of water resources while there is a need to give equal attention to the proper management of the available water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.